



Red Tail Flyer

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February 25, 2005

Base receives power boost

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Several power outages occurred last week on Balad due to a power transfer.

"The power switch affected everyone one way or another," said Master Sgt. Richard Baxter, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron electrical distribution NCOIC. "Army Prime Power switched over to a newer, more efficient power plant."

All over Balad, organizations without backup power had a power outage in the mornings and in the evenings. Some facilities were out of power for a day.

"The facilities on base that run on nothing but generators weren't affected," Sergeant Baxter said.

Army Prime Power, which supplies the entire installation power grid, switched from a 13,000 kilowatt power plant to a new 28,000 kilowatt power plant. "The switch was done to lower cost and improve reliability," said Capt. Mark Mobley, 332nd ECES deputy commander.

The old power plant generators were rented, but the new



Air Force/Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Senior Airman Christopher Conley, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron power production specialist, starts up a mission-essential power generator. The generator is used for back-up power during outages.

power plant is owned by the military.

"The increase in power is needed to meet summer demands and prevent rolling blackouts," said Captain Mobley. "The new plant allows greater flexibility in maintaining individual power during peak periods."

The power outages allowed 11,000-volt conductors to be safely transferred from the old plant to the new plant. The 332nd ECES Power Pro and

Electrical shops worked closely with Army Prime Power to convert Air Force facilities to the new power source.

"We currently have all Air Force facilities on Sapper street., Pennsylvania avenue, and Washington avenue on Prime Power, along with most of the HASs," Captain Mobley said.

During the power outages, the 332nd ECES Power Pro and Electrical shops placed most facilities served by Prime Power

generator power.

"We kept power on to maintain mission critical facilities during the upgrade," said Master Sgt. Shannon Daniel, 332nd ECES power production NCOIC.

Additional personnel were also placed on night shift to help respond to any outages.

Captain Mobley, Sergeant Baxter and Sergeant Daniel are all Air National Guard members deployed from Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Congratulations on Balad's colonel selects

Col. (s) Robert Skinner
332nd Expeditionary
Communications Squadron

Col. (s) Kyle Hicks
732nd Expeditionary Civil
Engineer Squadron

Col. (s) Gregory Perkinson
732 Expeditionary Mission
Support Group

Lt. Col. (s) Laura Garner
332nd Expeditionary
Aeromedical Squadron

Operation Sole train



Air Force/ Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas

Chief Master Sgt. John Hearn, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, hands out shoes to Iraqi villagers as part of Operation Sole Train. The 332nd ESFS visited four Iraqi villages and handed out more than 1,150 shoes donated by friends, family and businesses in the U.S.

News Briefs

Claims Against the Estate

Col. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, announces the death of Staff Sgt. Ray Rangel.

Anyone having claims for or against the estate of Sergeant Rangel should call Capt. Cynthia Clefisch, summary court officer, at 443-7173.

New Education Center Hours

The education center, in the education and training tent in H-6, has new testing times. Testing will be conducted from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays Wednesdays and Fridays and limited testing on Saturdays. The office is closed Sundays in the education and training tent in H-6.

When not in the testing tent, education services staff members are located in the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group building. For more information or to schedule a testing appointment, call Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Shaw at 443-7445.

CGOC gets involved, benefits people

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Company Grade Officers looking to meet fellow Airmen in their own ranks have a chance to do so by joining Balad's Company Grade Officer's Council.

"It's great. We get to meet other CGOs on base and network," said 1st Lt. Donovan Cody, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron wing force protections officer and CGOC member. "We also get together and do things that can benefit other people."

The council started during the previous AEF rotation and meets at 5 p.m. Tuesdays in the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group conference room.

"This council is free to join, has no qualifications, besides being a company grade

officer, and it's a great way to get involved on base," said 1st Lt. Carolyn Bartley, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron plans engineer and CGOC secretary.

Lieutenant Bartley, whose home station is Langley AFB, Va., said the organization also helps CGOs understand the big picture. "Being in the CGOC and meeting people from units all over base helps everyone understand what's going on here and how they can help."

During this AEF rotation the council has done a lot of good including holding a Tsunami Relief fundraiser, which raised more than \$800. The CGOC also set up New Year's eve decorations and distributed chicken wings and pizza for the super bowl

party. Additionally, the council received approval to open an Airmen's Attic and is also working to hold joint-service events.

"It's tough having this type of organization in a deployed environment," said Capt. Tammy Paul, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group PERSCO team chief and CGOC vice president. "Everyone has hectic schedules and the mission comes first."

Captain Paul, who's from Travis AFB, Calif., said the council also receives mentorship once a month from Balad's leaders.

"The council is a good thing because after you leave here and move on to other bases, you may have a friend you met here who can help you out," said Lieutenant Cody, who's from Dyess AFB, Texas.

Sisters in different services reunite in Iraq

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Two sisters in sister-services have what some deployed people wish they had.

They have each other here on Balad.

"It was pretty neat finding out she was deploying here," said Private 1st Class Megan Delp, 81st Brigade Combat Team combat medic who's a Washington Army National Guard member. "We've been over here for so long people become family, but that family isn't the same as having a real family member."

"I'm used to being deployed without knowing anyone," said Senior Airman Amanda Hale, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron non-destructive inspection specialist from Hurlburt Field, Fla. "But it's really good, especially for Megan because she's been over here and hasn't seen any family."

Private Delp has been deployed for a year and is getting ready to go home, while Airman Hale arrived here about a month ago. The sisters are three years apart and it's been more than two years since they last saw each other.

"This past month has gone by very quickly since she's here," Private Delp said. "It's really nice to see her again and have her experience some of the things I have."

Their parents are worried for their safety and the sisters said they try to tell them as little as possible.

"Mom has said, 'Why can't you two see each other at home instead of going across



Air Force/Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Private 1st Class Megan Delp stands with her older sister Senior Airman Amanda Hale. Private Delp was deployed here for a year and hadn't seen her sister in two years until Airman Hale arrived.

the world?" Airman Hale said. "It's hard on our parents, especially having Megan here for a year then I deploy too. Mom is upset, but proud. It's hard knowing her kids are at war."

Airman Hale left her husband and daughter when she deployed, but she said having her sister here gives her a sense of home.

"It's hard to see my little sister being grown up and saving people's lives," Airman Hale said.

Although they are both busy, the sisters find time for each other.

"We were walking down the street the other day and we both saluted an officer together," Airman Hale said. "Who would've thought we'd be together saluting an officer in Iraq."

Their supervisors also allow them to spend time with each other on duty as well as off.

"We try to hang out as much as we can," Private Delp said. "It's been hectic these past three weeks since I'm getting ready to go home, but when we do spend time together, it's usually a whole day."

"I show her what I do and she shows me what she does," Airman Hale said. "It's cool that even though we're all deployed, everyone here recognizes the importance of family."

The sisters both joined the military to leave their small town, have an adventure and make a difference.

"No one ever thought we would join the military because of our flamboyant personalities," Private Delp said. "The Air Force never really interested me so I joined the Army. Part of it was if 'Amanda can do it, then I can to.' I wanted to show everyone who doubted that I could do it."

Black History Month activities

Today – 7 p.m. Talent show/trivia night in the rec. tent. Sign-ups for expressing talent such as poetry, singing and dancing are taken at the rec. tent.

Black History Month Movie Schedule.

All Black History Month movies are held in the Rec tent.

Today, Feb. 25

6 a.m. - Fighting Temptations

10 a.m. - The Green Mile

6 p.m. - Fighting Temptations

10 p.m. - The Green Mile

Saturday, Feb. 26

6 a.m. - Remembrance of Martin

10 a.m. - Citizen King

6 p.m. - Remembrance of Martin

10 p.m. - Citizen King

Sunday, Feb. 27

6 a.m. - Soldier's Story

10 a.m. - Glory

6 p.m. - Soldier's Story

10 p.m. - Glory

Monday, Feb. 28

6 a.m. - Men of Honor

10 a.m. - Tuskegee Airmen

6 p.m. - Men of Honor

10 p.m. - Tuskegee Airmen

Airmen armor Army vehicles

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Fifty Airmen and more than 150 civilians from all over the world do one of the most important jobs in the military, but not for the Air Force.

At Big Bob's Truck Stop, vehicle maintainers from the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron armor Army vehicles that venture outside the wire.

"It's kind of historic, ground breaking, because we are armoring strictly Army vehicles. It has nothing to do with the Air Force mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Hank Stripling, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintenance superintendent. "When a truck leaves here, soldiers are protected because of what these Airmen have done."

The Airmen are augmenting the Army's Project Management Tactical Vehicles Armor Program.

Five civilian instructors working for different contractors taught the Airmen how to armor the vehicles.

"Before this, they had no clue how to armor vehicles, but within two weeks all the crews were on their own," said Sergeant Stripling who's a Fort Smith Ark. Air National Guard member. "Now the instructors armor the vehicles and answer questions."

Airmen armoring Army vehicles started this AEF rotation. Sergeant Stripling said they completely armor the vehicle's cab, new seats are put in for comfort on long rides, air-conditioning is installed, new brush boards (front bumpers) are added, and the vehicle gets new armored doors and windshields.

"Air conditioning is very important because there's no ventilation in the truck," Sergeant Stripling said. "During the summer it can get extremely hot in the cab and you can't roll down the windows because then the armor would be pointless."

Sergeant Stripling said the armor is extremely effective and can withstand almost anything thrown at it. "The glass and doors don't fail," he said.

The Airmen can armor six to seven trucks a night. "We don't grab a truck off the street and armor it," Sergeant Stripling said. "The



Air Force/Photos by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Senior Airman Joshua Leuck, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintainer from Scott AFB, Ill., strips an Army vehicle by grinding rivets off. Once the rivets are gone, armor can be added.

Army says they want a certain number of certain types of vehicles armored. Soldiers bring the vehicles in and we inspect them to make sure there's no major problem. We armor them up, and the truck is on its way."

One of the vehicle maintainers armoring the trucks was on a convoy last year and knows the importance of driving an armored vehicle. "When I was here in February 2004, I deployed as a convoy vehicle operations gunner," said Senior Airman Shawn Hisel, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintainer and a Nashville Air National Guard member. "We used sandbags, plywood, metal plates, filled doors with sand, anything to make the vehicle stronger."

Airman Hisel said being deployed a second time to armor vehicles is very rewarding. "I enjoy it. I got a good crew, we work hard, and its one more truck safely out the door," he said. "I feel a whole lot better knowing the vehicles that leave the installation have protection."

Sergeant Stripling said his Airmen show pride in their work. "It's different than being at the home station doing routine maintenance such as an oil change," he said. "You know within a few days, that vehicle you worked on is on the road and protecting lives. My maintainers know what we do is worthwhile and gratifying."



Above: Staff Sgt. Fulton Morris, 732nd ELRS general purpose mechanic from Dover AFB, Del., pulls down air lines on an Army vehicle.

Left: Senior Airman Mark McIlroy, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintainer from Aviano AB, Italy, heats up an Army vehicle's metal to straighten the frame. Before a vehicle receives armor, the vehicle is fully inspected and minor repairs are made.



Above: Senior Airman Matthew Brock, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintainer from RAF Fairfield, England, steadies an armored door as Tech. Sgt. Robert Riley, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintainer from Misawa AB, Japan, prepares to install it.

Left: Staff Sgt. Andre Collins, 732nd ELRS vehicle maintainer from Luke AFB, Ariz., drills holes into the side of an Army vehicle so a combat-lock door can be installed.

Seeing goodness in the combat zone

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Linsky
332nd AEW chaplain

Earlier this month I preached on the Beatitudes, the beautiful teaching Jesus gave to his followers on the Mount of Olives, which outlines how his followers should be. In my teaching, preaching and counseling, I have often suggested that these nuggets found in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew are a central means for us to examine our conscience, to see if our lives reflect the central values of our faith.

Living out one's faith is both an extremely personal act as well as a public one. Indeed, as an Air Force chaplain and a Roman Catholic priest, I am very aware that my life is constantly being scrutinized for its consistency with what I purport to be and represent to others.

While I hope for that consistency, I am very aware of my own imperfections and can only hope that these do not cause others to either lose faith or stumble in their own journeys with God.

But it is the Beatitudes that have struck me in my ministry at Balad – especially these particular words of Jesus: “Blessed

are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”

So many times we think of purity as simply abstaining from inappropriate sexual conduct. But it really means something far more. It is meant to reflect an innocence or simplicity of life that has no barriers, that is filled with zero pretense. It is in the pure of heart that we see mirrored back to us the very love of God.

Realistically, our world is troubled. We serve in a country that has been wracked by civil discord for decades. Thousands have lost their lives in wars initiated by Iraq's former rulers as well as in periods of so-called peace. Some were even murdered in the sports stadium many have seen on this base and more continue to die in this present conflict. Yet, in the midst of this, in the faces of those serving here, I have seen the “pure in heart.”

Many times, it has been in the person of an Army specialist or Marine sergeant lying gravely injured in the Hospital, struggling with his pain and perhaps having lost a limb. I would have expected to have sensed anger, or to have heard the question, “Why, Father.” Instead, on so many occasions, it's been, “Father, please pray for my

men, my company, my brothers.” Or, “Father, I've just got to get well, to get back. They need me and I simply can't let them down.”

It's not only the injured that have shown their innocence but the healthy as well. The men and women standing at attention to honor the dead at a Patriot Detail; the guys at the motor pool covered in grease not quitting until a vehicle works; security policemen patiently checking IDs.

We all are aware of our sins and failures and maybe there are things we'd like to take care of before we're called to see the face of God. But even now, in the muck, mud and dust that is Balad, much is good.

We're all here for a period of time. That time can end with a departure or much more. Lent is for many a time to reflect, to ponder and to change, and the desert is perhaps the best place to celebrate it.

At least for now, removed from many of the things that may set us back at home stations, we have an opportunity to reflect on the realities that face us. May we see in them a chance for purity and live this virtue as a means of honoring not only the wounded and fallen, but ourselves, our country and our God.

Tuskegee Airmen excelled in Army Air Corps

By Senior Airman Amaani
Lyle

52nd Fighter Wing Public
Affairs

SPANGDAHLEMAN AB, Germany – Today's Air Force family is a mighty quilt that unites servicemembers of all races, religions, nationalities and creeds around the globe.

Our uniforms look alike, but the plurality of those who wear them is rich in culture and history.

This thought made me want to learn a little more about the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of determined men who enlisted to become the United States' first black military Airmen.

The unwavering resolve of the Tuskegee Airmen during

World War II arose during an era when many people found themselves engaged in another “war” on American soil over segregation and racial equality.

Nonetheless, the Tuskegee Airmen, hailing from various parts of America, strove to become pilots or master other aspects of aviation.

I wondered how such a group, many of whom still had to drink from “colored” water fountains, got such important and necessary training to promote their social and professional advancement.

At the urging of black leaders and the black press, the Army Air Corps began a special project to integrate black pilots into the fighter pilot program. The first aviation cadet class began in July

1941 at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Ala.

Between 1942 and 1946, 992 pilots graduated from Tuskegee and received commissions and pilot wings. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews were trained at other bases in the United States.

Soon, hundreds of black Airmen became college graduates or undergraduates by way of the military, and others qualified through comprehensive entrance examinations.

According to the National Home of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Web site, “no standards were lowered for the pilots or any of the others who trained in operations, meteorology, intelligence, engineering, medicine or any of

the other officer fields.”

Enlisted members received training in a variety of fields – aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, policemen, administrative clerks and many other specialties necessary for full operability as an Army Air Corp flying squadron or ground support unit.

The Tuskegee Airmen prepared to fight, fought to win and took care of each other in the face of adversity. I am grateful for the service of these Airmen, just as I am grateful for the service of all military men and women who fight for freedom, democracy and equality each day.



Hygiene Tips for a Healthy Deployment

Historically disease and non-battle injuries have caused more loss of manpower than any other factor during contingency operations.

To stay healthy during a deployment remember to follow basic hygiene principals such as proper hand washing and taking care of trash.

Proper hand washing is the single most effective method of preventing illness or communicable diseases.

Always remember to wash hands before and after eating, after using the latrine, after nose blowing, sneezing or coughing, before and after smoking tobacco products and after handling garbage, soil, etc.

Steps for effective hand washing:

1. Wet your hands with warm running water
2. Add soap, and then rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds. Wash the front and back of your hands, as well as between your fingers and under your nails
3. Rinse hands well under warm running water.
4. Dry hands thoroughly with a clean disposable paper towel

When hand washing facilities are not available hand sanitizers can be used. These products will kill 99.9 percent of germs, but will not remove them so be sure to wash your hands as soon as soap and water become available.

Poor personal hygiene is an open invitation to a variety of bacterial and fungal diseases. To prevent fungal infections, always wear shower shoes, brush teeth at least twice daily using only restroom facilities, wear clean socks and undergarments daily and wear a clean uniform as often as possible.

Hygiene also extends into the living environment as well. Keep tents, trailers and workspaces free of trash and debris. Disposing of trash daily so receptacles are not overflowing will reduce the attraction of flies, rodents and other critters potentially carrying diseases.

If you have any questions or concerns call the Public Health office at 443-7304.

Meet your neighbor



Airman 1st Class Trudie Rickman

Home station: F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

Unit: 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Chapel

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, writing, listening to music and hanging out with friends.

How do you contribute to the mission? I assist Chap. Duane McCrory with unit visitation coverage at the Air Force Theater Hospital and Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility. I also serve as the worship logistical manager, chaplain assistant, duty scheduler and fellowship coordinator.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? I like doing visitation with the chaplains and learning about different jobs. Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss the food, my friends and not being able to shop for designer clothes.

Legal Assistance

The 332nd AEW Legal Office conducts Satellite legal assistance from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in the H-6 Education Tent.

Services provided include powers of attorney, notaries, wills and legal advice.

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
11 a.m. • Contemporary
Worship – Town Hall
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational
Worship – H-6 Chapel

Roman Catholic

Daily:

When Catholic Chaplain is
available, Mass • 7:30 p.m. –
H-6 Chapel

Confessions – Offered prior to
Daily Mass

Saturdays:

7:30 p.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

9 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel
2 p.m. • Mass – CJSOTF
Chapel
3:30 p.m. • Mass – JSOAP-AP
Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6
Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6
Chapel

Fellowship and Study

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers
Fellowship – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Band of Brothers
Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Sundays:

2 p.m. • Protestant Bible Study
– Hospital
7 p.m. • Catholic Study –
Chapel Fellowship room

Tuesdays:

7:30 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life
– Chapel Fellowship Room

Wednesdays:

7 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life –
Chapel Fellowship Room

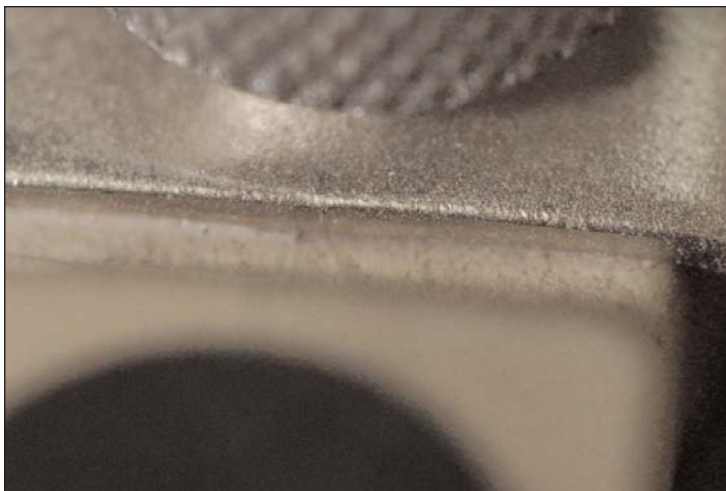
Thursdays:

5:30 p.m. • Purpose Driven Life
– Hospital
7 p.m. • Latter Day Saints
Study Group – Chapel
Fellowship Room

Fridays:

5 p.m. • Experiencing God–
Chapel Fellowship Room
7:30 p.m. • Women's Bible
Study– Hospital

Know what this is?

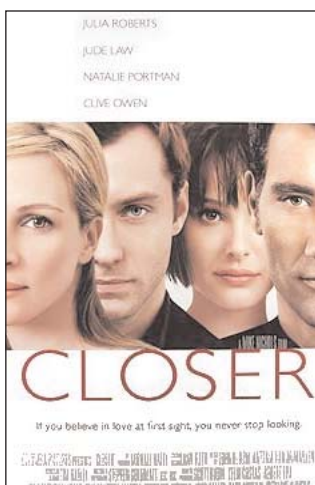


Air Force/Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of an avocado was first identified by Senior Airman Shierra Paraiso, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Sustainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today, Feb. 25

3 p.m. - Closer

6 p.m. - Hitch

9 p.m. - Hitch

Saturday, Feb. 26

3 p.m. - Blade Trinity

6 p.m. - Hitch

9 p.m. - Hitch

Sunday, Feb. 27

3 p.m. - Hitch

6 p.m. - Lemony Snicket

9 p.m. - Blade Trinity

Monday, Feb. 28

3 p.m. - Saw

6 p.m. - Spanglish

9 p.m. - Bridget Jones

Tuesday, March 1

3 p.m. - The Punisher

6 p.m. - Team America

9 p.m. - Lemony Snicket

Wednesday, March 2

3 p.m. - Cellular

6 p.m. - Paparazzi

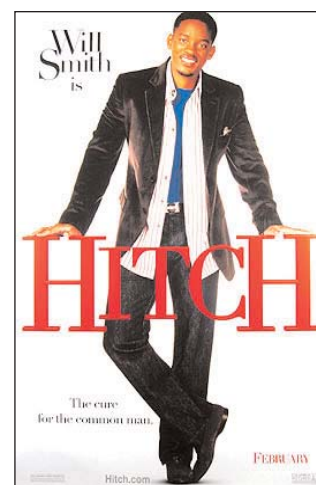
9 p.m. - Hitch

Thursday, March 3

3 p.m. - Spanglish

6 p.m. - Lemony Snicket

9 p.m. - Hitch



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Red Tail Flyer Editor

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by the public affairs staff of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

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